

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 26, 2005, the examiner indicated that independent claim 7 and its dependent claims 8, 9, 11, 12, and 17 are allowed.

The applicant has canceled claim 1 without disclaimer or prejudice to pursuing the claim in another application. Claims 2, 3, 6, 10, 13, 14, and 16 have been amended to depend directly from allowed claim 7. These amendments do not raise new issues that would require further consideration. As a result of the above amendments, claims 4, 5, 12, and 15 now depend indirectly from allowed claim 7. The applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims 2-17 are in condition for allowance.

In the Amendment dated April 6, 2005, the applicant requested consideration of the "Institute National de La Propriete Industrielle Preliminary Search Report" document cited in the September 24, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement and return of the initialed PTO Form 1449 to the undersigned attorney. As the applicant has not yet received confirmation that the examiner has reviewed the document, the applicant includes another copy of the Information Disclosure Statement with this Amendment, and request that the examiner provide such confirmation.

With respect to the prior action, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. Nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment

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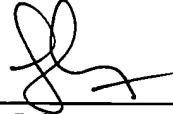
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